

Timeline of Events

These are some important dates in the recent history of the Waiwhetū Stream

Pre 1800s	Te Āti Awa settled in the area. Waka used to go upstream and the stream was much wider and deeper than today.
1840s	Many European settlers arrive, some build houses and start farming very near the stream. A Mr Wilcox builds a shipyard and flour mill at the junction of the stream and Whites Line East.
1855	A large magnitude earthquake shakes Wellington. The land around the lower reaches of the stream is raised up by as much as 1.5 metres. The stream becomes a lot shallower.
1894	Mr and Mrs Ellis establish a Flock Mill (near Woodvale Grove) which uses the stream to power the mill.
1920s	Lost of Chinese immigrate to the valley and set up market gardens
1950s	There is a housing boom and many houses are built near the stream
1970s and 80s	The stream is straightened into a concrete channel in Naenae
2000	A working group is set up to address some of the pollution issues
2008	The working group get lots of heavy metals removed from the stream bed in the lower reaches
2011	The Friends of Waiwhetū Stream (FWS) community group is formed. Their work continues what has been started by the working group.
2011 - 2014	Cape pondweed is removed

2012	Native planting started at Rishworth Reserve
2014	The first picnic table is installed (at St Ronan's Avenue).
2016	The concrete channels in Naenae begin to be 'naturalised' with extra stream edge rocks and plants
2018	FWS starts collecting data for national databases on stream health
2021	FWS celebrate 10 years of restoration efforts and produce a booklet describing their work. 400 copies were published.